千恋*万花
SENREN*BANKA

CHAPTER: 03.1

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GIMME * MANGA!

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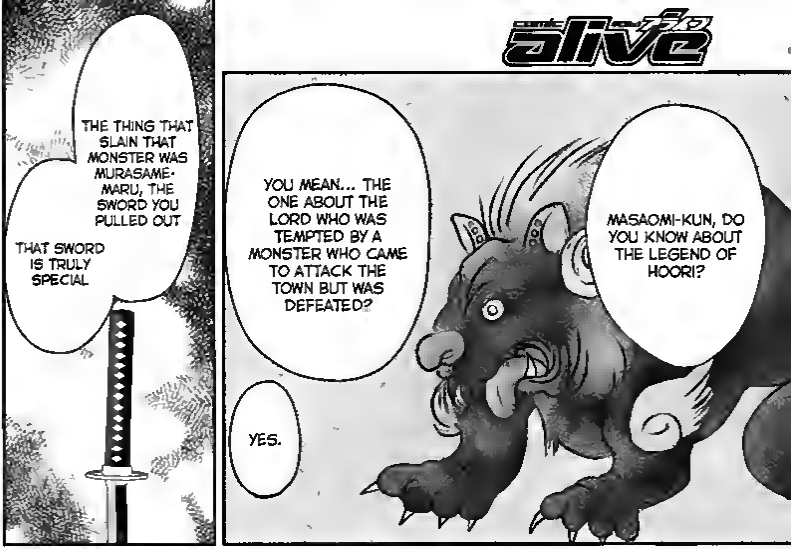
第3話
『千恋＊万花』特集記事は21ページへ！
お主ARE YOU…
輩のご
MY MASTER?か？
千恋＊万花
季月えりか
原作：ゆずソフト

ARICHI-SAN, ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL?
DOES YOUR SHOULDER HURT?
I'M SEEING ANIMAL EARS ON TOMOTAKE-SAN'S HEAD...
ピョコ
ゴシゴシ
ゴシゴシ
I CAN STILL SEE THEM...
umm
?
I think my desire just materialized in the form of an object
NOT MY SHOULDER BUT RATHER MY HEAD...
I'M SEEING SOMETHING THAT MAKES NO SENSE.
SOMETHING THAT MAKES NO SENSE?
ガクッ
YES, THOSE THINGS ON YOUR HEAD...

GASP
T-
THIS ISN'T WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE!
YOU'RE SEEING THINGS!
YOU PROBABLY HIT YOUR HEAD, THAT'S WHY...
AS I THOUGHT, MASTER CAN SEE THEM
MURASAME-CHAN!
WAIT. . DOES THAT MEAN, YOU CAN SEE THEM TOO?
IF YOSHINO CAN SEE ME THEN THAT MEANS I CAN SEE HER EARS AS WELL.

BUT... WHEN I SAW HER THIS MORNING, SHE DIDN'T HAVE THEM...
THE REASON PROBABLY LIES IN HAVING COME IN CONTACT WITH THE *KEGARE OF THE INJURY THAT YOU RECEIVED BY THE EVIL GOD WHEN SHE WAS TREATING IT.
EVIL GOD?
*IMPURITY
I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND... BUT YOU'RE SAYING THAT THOSE EARS AND THAT BLACK THING ARE RELATED?
AS WELL AS MURASAME-MARU...
YOSHINO... DON'T YOU THINK YOU OWE HIM AN EXPLANATION?
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THIS INCIDENT IS HAVING AN IMPACT ON MASTER

HERE YOU GO.
I UNDER-STAND...
FIRST OFF... I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT THE BLAME FOR THIS INCIDENT LIES ON US FOR NOT BEING MORE CAUTIOUS
WE SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST WARN YOU ABOUT IT,
I'M TRULY SORRY
WELL... EVEN IF YOU HAD WARNED ME ABOUT IT, I DON'T THINK I WOULD HAVE BELIEVED YOU.
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT WAS THAT THING?
AND PLEASE DON'T SAY IT WAS AN ANIMAL...


MASAOMI-KUN, DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE LEGEND OF HOORI?
YOU MEAN... THE ONE ABOUT THE LORD WHO WAS TEMPTED BY A MONSTER WHO CAME TO ATTACK THE TOWN BUT WAS DEFEATED?
YES.
THE THING THAT SLAIN THAT MONSTER WAS MURASAME-MARU, THE SWORD YOU PULLED OUT
THAT SWORD IS TRULY SPECIAL

AND IF MURASAME-MARU IS REAL, THAT MEANS THE MONSTER DID REALLY EXIST.
AHH!
SO THE LEGEND WAS TRUE AFTER ALL?
THAT'S RIGHT.
ANYWAY, THEY WERE ABLE TO DEFEAT THE MONSTER WITH MURASAME-MARU'S POWER BUT...

IN HIS FINAL MOMENTS, THE MONSTER LEFT US A CURSE.
THAT BLACK THING YOU SAW... IS WHAT WE CALL "EVIL GODS"
IT IS, BUT THEY DO NOT ATTACK INDISCRIMINATELY...
SO YOU'RE SAYING THERE ARE EVIL GODS IN THE MOUNTAIN? THIS IS A SIGHT-SEEING SPOT... ISN'T THAT DANGEROUS?
IT'S SAID THAT YOSHINO'S EARS ARE PROOF OF THE CURSE LEFT BY THE MONSTER WHO WAS ORIGINALLY AN ANIMAL, THOSE WHO HAVE THEM ARE TARGETED BY THE EVIL GODS.

07
WHAT
THE TOMOTAKE FAMILY ARE DIRECT DESCENDANTS OF THE LEGENDARY FAMILY THAT WON THE FIGHT.
IF THAT'S SO, THEN WHY WAS I...
GASP

I GET IT NOW, THE REASON I WAS ATTACKED IS BECAUSE I WAS CHOSEN BY MURASAME-MARU...
DOES THAT MEAN I'LL HAVE EARS LIKE THOSE, TOO?!
DON'T WORRY, THAT WON'T HAPPEN.
THAT ONLY HAPPENS TO MEMBERS OF THE TOMOTAKE FAMILY. SINCE I MARRIED INTO THE FAMILY THE CURSE HAS NO EFFECT IN ME, ALSO I CAN'T SEE THEM EITHER.
THE ONLY ONE EXPERIENCING THE EFFECTS OF THE CURSE IS... YOSHINO.
BASICALLY, THE EVIL GODS WON'T ATTACK US UNLESS WE ENTER THE YAKAN MOUNTAIN. .
.....
SO— THAT'S WHAT YOSHINO-SAN'S DOING RIGHT NOW?
THAT'S WHY FOR GENERATIONS, THE TOMOTAKE PRINCESSES HAVE BEEN PURIFYING THE KEGARE OF THE MOUNTAIN BEFORE THE EVIL GODS GET A CHANCE TO AMASS IT AND BECOME STRONGER
BUT IF WE IGNORE THEM, THEY WOULD AMASS POWER THUS BECOMING EVEN STRONGER BEINGS

HAVE YOU SEEN YOSHINO'S SHINTO DANCE?
YES, I SAW IT THE DAY OF THE FESTIVAL.
THAT DANCE IS ACTUALLY A RITUAL TO PURIFY THE KEGARE
WHEN SHE DANCES, WHAT SHE REALLY DOES IS PURIFY THE LAND.
HOW-EVER...
NOT EVERY-THING CAN BE PURIFIED WITH THE DANCE
?
IN SUCH CASES, IT HAS TO BE DEALT WITH PERSONALLY.
09
YES.
PERSONALLY...?
YOU MEAN FIGHT THEM?
FIGHT...
SOME-THING LIKE THAT...
AND SHE'S THE ONE WHO HAS TO DO IT?
PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, ARICHI-SAN.

I CAN TAKE CARE OF THE EVIL GODS.
NOTHING BAD WILL HAPPEN TO YOU AS LONG AS YOU STAY AWAY FROM THE MOUNTAIN.
WHAT
THIS MATTER IS THE TOMOTAKE'S... NO, IT'S MY PROBLEM.

IS WHAT SHE SAID, BUT STILL...
SIGH
PLEASE LEAVE IT TO ME, I'LL DEFINITELY DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

THOUGH IT WILL... TAKE ME A WHILE...
AND I BELIEVE YOU WON'T HAVE MUCH FREEDOM DURING THAT TIME BUT...

HUH?
I CAN'T JUST LEAVE IT TO HER...

IS SHE PRACTISING HER DANCE?
MAN, SHE'S REALLY BEAUTIFUL...
ARICHI-SAN! SHOULDN'T YOU BE IN BED?
I'M FINE, THESE ARE JUST SCRATCHES
IF YOU SAY SO...

WERE YOU PURIFYING SOMETHING?
NO... I WAS JUST PRACTISING, THIS DANCE SERVES A GREAT PURPOSE AFTER ALL.
OH... BY THE WAY THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO GIVE YOU...
WHAT IS IT?

HANG ON A SECOND...
YES.
HERE YOU GO,
I TRIED TO FIX IT THE BEST I COULD.
SORRY IF IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD, I'M STILL AN AMATEUR.
OHH... SHE DID A GOOD JOB
IT WAS SEWN FROM THE INSIDE SO THAT NO ONE WOULD NOTICE...
OH... IT'S MY SHIRT! IT WAS TORN APART SO I THOUGHT IT HAD ALREADY BEEN THROWN AWAY TO THE GARBAGE.

WOW! THIS IS AMAZING!
IS T-THAT SO? THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
13
TOMOTAKE-SAN. . HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN DOING THE PURIFICATION?
IN THE PAST, MY MOTHER WAS THE ONE DOING IT, BUT EVER SINCE SHE DIED, I'M THE ONE WHO'S BEEN DOING THE PURIFICATION
USUALLY, MAKO IS THE ONE WHO TAKES CARE OF THE HOUSEWORK, HOWEVER I'M BETTER THAN HER WHEN IT COMES TO THIS KIND OF THING
AFTER ALL, I ALWAYS RECEIVE THE SAME KIND OF WOUNDS WHEN I GO TO THE MOUNTAIN TO PURIFY IT.
AREN'T YOU SCARED ...?

...IT'S AN IMPORTANT DUTY SO IT HAS TO BE DONE.
ARICHI-SAN... PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
FORGET ABOUT THE EVIL GODS AND JUST FOCUS ON YOUR RECOVERY.
4
THIS IS A MATTER THAT INVOLVES ME TOO, SO I CAN'T JUST SIT BACK AND LET YOU TAKE CARE OF IT ALONE.
DON'T WORRY
Hmph
I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.
AGAIN WITH THAT...

HITACHI-SAN, WHY ARE YOU WEARING THAT?
THIS IS MY UNIFORM, A SHINOBI COSTUME
IT'S THE ATTIRE THAT I INHERITED FROM MY HONOURABLE LINEAGE.
same goes for my miko attire
IT EVEN HAS SPIRITUAL PROTECTION.
IS THAT SO...
WELL, WE'RE LEAVING NOW.
SEE YOU LATER.
YES, BE CAREFUL YOU TWO.

SUCH FRUSTRATION LED ME TO OVERDO IT ONCE, AND THE RESULT WAS AN INJURY THAT TOOK TWO WHOLE MONTHS TO HEAL
BUT I NEVER HAD THE POWER TO DO IT...
AND BECAUSE OF THAT I CAUSED HER TO WORRY.

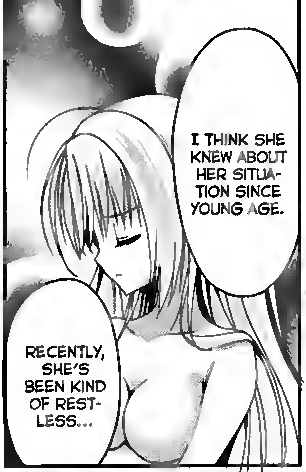
TRUTH IS...
I SHOULD BE THE ONE GOING, NOT HER.
THEY ARE OFF TO PERFORM THE PURIFICATION AND YET THEY ACT LIKE IT'S NOTHING...

.....

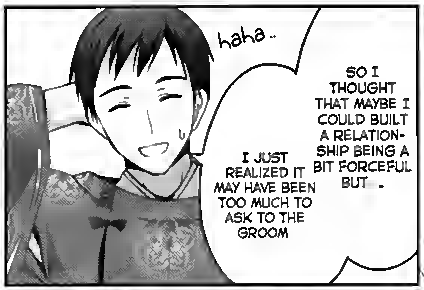
DOES HITACHI-SAN HAVE THAT KIND OF POWER?
WELL, SHE'S PART OF THE NINJA FAMILY THAT HAS SERVED THE TOMOTAKE FAMILY AS BODY-GUARDS FROM ANCIENT TIMES, SO YES
THOUGH IT'S WEAKER THAN YOSHINO'S IT'S STILL STRONGER THAN MINE.

T-THEN
HM? WHAT IS IT?

I SEE...
I GUESS I CAN'T BLAME YOU FOR TAKING IT THAT WAY.
BECAUSE YOU WANTED ME TO HELP HER WITH THE PURIFICATION OF THE MOUNTAIN?
THE REASON YOU MADE ME HER FIANCÉE WAS...
WHOEVER WIELDS MURASAME-MARU WILL BE TARGETED BY THE EVIL GODS.
IF SO... WHY ME THEN?
BUT LET ME TELL YOU THAT THAT WASN'T MY INTENTION IN THE SLIGHTEST.
EVEN SO, DON'T YOU THINK MARRIAGE IS BIT TOO MUCH...?
SO I DID IT TO HAVE A BACK UP PLAN FOR THE WORST CASE SCENARIO.
AND THERE'S NO PROOF THAT HOORI IS THE ONLY PLACE THE EVIL GODS CAN APPEAR...


I THINK SHE KNEW ABOUT HER SITUATION SINCE YOUNG AGE.
RECENTLY, SHE'S BEEN KIND OF RESTLESS...

WHAT CAN I SAY... YOSHINO'S A VERY RESPONSIBLE GIRL.
THE ONLY TIME I EVER SAW HER LAUGH AND PLAY INNOCENTLY WAS DURING HER CHILDHOOD


haha..
SO I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE I COULD BUILT A RELATIONSHIP BEING A BIT FORCEFUL BUT -
I JUST REALIZED IT MAY HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH TO ASK TO THE GROOM

I THINK THAT WHAT THAT GIRL NEEDS ARE FRIENDS OF THE SAME AGE AND A BOYFRIEND WORTHY OF HER
BUT, IF I WERE TO INTRODUCE HER TO SOMEONE THAT RELATIONSHIP WOULDN'T LAST LONG...
YOSHINO IS VERY STUBBORN.

MAKO-KUN IS DOING A REMARKABLE JOB
ISN'T HITACHI-SAN ENOUGH?
AND I KNOW SHE ISN'T DOING IT JUST BECAUSE IT'S HER DUTY
BUT...

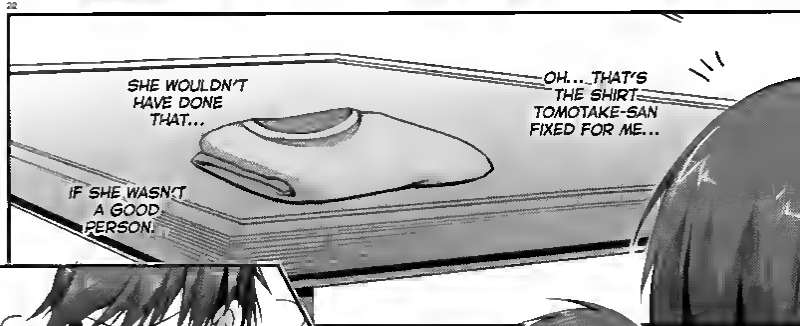
T-THAT'S TRUE.
EVEN SO, THEY AREN'T ON EQUAL FOOTING.
REGARDLESS OF THE AGE
EVERYONE ADDRESS HER AS "MIKO PRINCESS"
THE TOMOTAKE FAMILY IS CONSIDERED SPECIAL IN HOORI,
I JUST WANT YOU TO GET ALONG WITH HER IF POSSIBLE... THAT'S ALL.
BUT SERIOUSLY, IT ISN'T LIKE I WANT YOU TO MARRY HER IN SPECIFIC...
I'M SORRY FOR RE-QUESTING SOMETHING SO UNREA-SONABLE
THAT'S WHY I CHOSE YOU, A MEMBER OF THE MASAOMI FAMILY, BECAUSE THEY DON'T TAKE MUCH PART IN THE TOWN'S AFFAIRS.

HEY MURASAME-CHAN...
.....
HM?
HMM... WELL... MURASAME-MARU IS A SWORD THAT HOLDS DIVINE POWER THAT CAN GO AGAINST OTHER MAGICAL SWORDS
ARE YOU JUST A SOUL?
IS DIVINE POWER — ALL YOU POSSES? I'D LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU
WAIT A SECOND!
AND THAT SOUL WAS NO OTHER THAN, YOURS TRU-LY.
MURASAME-MARU WAS BUILT BY STORING A PERSON'S SOUL WHO ALREADY HAD DIVINE POWER STORED IN IT ON THE BLADE.
HOWEVER, MERE STEEL CANNOT STORAGE DIVINE POWER
FOR THAT IS NECESSARY THE " SOUL OF A PERSON"

YEAH... I WAS INFECTED WITH THE DISEASE OF THE EPIDEMIC
NOT QUITE
I BECAME MURASAME-MARU'S DWELLER BY MY OWN VOLITION.
WHY?! WAS IT NECESSARY?
WOULDN'T THAT MEAN YOU WERE SACRIFICED?
MANY PEOPLE DIED FROM THE SAME DISEASE THAT I HAD
EVEN I WAS GOING TO DIE EVENTUALLY...
I BECAME THE SWORD'S DWELLER BECAUSE I WANTED TO SAVE EVERYONE
BY THROWING AWAY YOUR OWN LIFE...
YOU KNOW,
I USED TO PRACTICE KENDO A LONG TIME AGO BUT THIS IS MY FIRST TIME HOLDING A REAL SWORD.
DO YOU THINK SOMEONE LIKE ME COULD BE HELPFUL?

IF YOU WERE TO GO WITH A WEAK RESOLVE, YOU'D JUST BE A HINDRANCE...
.....

I WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO TELL YOU...
I BELIEVE YOU ALREADY KNOW HOW DANGEROUS THE EVIL GODS CAN BE


SHE WOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT...
IF SHE WASN'T A GOOD PERSON.
OH... THAT'S THE SHIRT TOMOTAKE-SAN FIXED FOR ME...

SHAKE
SHAKE
AHH-- SCREW IT! I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY MORE!

ARE WE GOING?
OF COURSE WE ARE .. I MEAN THE SITUATION OEMANOS IT!!
TOMOTAKE-SAN AND HITACHI-SAN ARE WOMEN WHILE I AM A MAN, THAT'S WHY I MUST GO!
THAT'S ENOUGH REASON FOR A MAN TO TAKE ACTION
IT'S A GOOD THING TO HAVE VANITY, MASTER!
はぁ

M-MASTER, WHY ARE YOU SO QUIET?
……

WHY ARE YOU IGNORING ME!!
H-HEY MASTER!

.....
.....
I SEE...
NO, I'M NOT!
ARE YOU SCARED?

PYAAH?!
WAAAAH!

ｸﾞｽ..
……

YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN HONEST FROM THE START...
HAD I BEEN, YOU'D HAVE MOCKED ME SAYING "A GHOST SCARED OF GHOSTS, LOL!" WOULDN'T YOU?

YOU CAN'T HELP FEELING SCARED OF WHAT YOU'RE AFRAID OF, RIGHT?
You just changed the subject!!
I KNEW IT! YOU THOUGHT ABOUT IT, DIDN'T YOU?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE! WASN'T I CLEAR WHEN I TOLD YOU NOT TO ENTER THE MOUNTAIN?!
GO BACK!

A-ARICHI-SAN?!
OH MY...
SO HE END UP COMING HERE AFTER ALL...

I ALREADY TOLD YOU, THIS IS A PROBLEM THAT CONCERNS ME AS WELL.
IF I WERE TO LEAVE JUST BECAUSE YOU SAY SO, I WOULDN'T HAVE COME IN THE FIRST PLACE.
NNGH.
YOSHINO-SAMA, I BELIEVE IT'S TOO LATE TO SEND HIM BACK NOW THAT HE'S ALREADY HERE.
MAKO, WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?!
DON'T YOU THINK IT'D BE DANGEROUS IF AN EVIL GOD WERE TO ATTACK HIM ON HIS WAY BACK?
T-THAT'S...
I BELIEVE MASTER SHOULD STAY HERE, TOO
MURASAME-SAMA
UUU... NYUUU..
YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT, I DON'T CARE!
BUT... STAY WHERE I CAN SEE YOU!!
NEXT TIME, MASAOMI WILL SHOW US WHO'S THE 'MAN'?!
次号につづく!
9 月号 7月27日(水)発売!!